

MAJOR PROJECT GRANT *NEW*

The Municipality of the District of Chester provides financial assistance for major community projects that involve a more significant level of funding than is covered under Council Grants. These projects may include the construction of a new facility, renovation of an aging facility, purchase of large capital items or the development and implementation of substantial community wide programs or initiatives.

Eligibility

- You must be a non-profit organization, or otherwise comply with the requirements of the Municipal Government Act for eligibility for a grant or contribution by a municipality (Section 65(AU)).
- Your primary purpose must be to operate, sponsor or encourage programs, activities or facilities within the Municipality of the District of Chester.
- Organizations are only eligible for one grant from the Municipality each fiscal year, regardless of grant type.
- Only projects valued at **\$10,000 or more** will be considered under this program. Projects valued at \$10,000 or less will be considered under the Council Grant program.
- Churches / faith based organizations are not eligible for funding. Council may make exceptions if the organization is the only one in the area providing the service, in such cases general operating expenses or capital improvements will not be considered.
- Private member based organizations, whose primary focus is to serve its members, are not eligible for funding. Council may make exceptions on occasion where programs or initiatives are open to the general public.

Application Procedure

- Applications must be received by **March 31, 2016** for projects taking place in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. In future years groups will be required to submit Major Project Grant application by January 31st for the following fiscal year.
- Organizations must complete the Major Project Grant Application form.
- You may attach a separate document if there is insufficient space on the form for your response to each question.
- If the project is new construction or facility renovation you must comply with all applicable municipal, provincial and federal regulations and you are required to show proof of ownership or long term lease.
- The application form must be completed in full and have appropriate signatures.
- Completed application forms should be submitted to the Municipality as indicated on the application.
- Council will review all applications and determine funding amounts.
- If organizations have questions about the application form or would like to receive assistance in completing the form, please contact the Recreation & Parks Director at 902-275-3490 or by email at chaughn@chester.ca.

- After a project is complete, organizations are required to submit a completed Major Project Grant Report Form to indicate how the funds were spent.

Funding

- The amount of grant funding available each year will be determined during annual budget deliberations.
- There is no maximum funding limit for Major Project Grants.

Evaluation

Applications will be reviewed using the following evaluation criteria:

- Benefit to the community at large.
- Demonstrated positive community impact.
- The organization has a financial need for grant funding.
- Evidence of fundraising efforts (there are funding sources other than the Municipality).
- Project alignment with the Municipal strategic plan.